General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 February 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 47

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.28 and Add.1)*]

64/79. 2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the period 2001–2010 has been proclaimed the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, by the General Assembly,[1] and that combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases is included in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its resolution 63/234 of 22 December 2008 and all previous resolutions concerning the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa,

Recalling further World Health Assembly resolution 60.18 of 23 May 2007 urging a broad range of national and international actions to scale up malaria control programmes [2] and resolution 61.18 of 24 May 2008 on monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals,[3]

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council relating to the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular resolution 1998/36 of 30 July 1998,

Taking note of the declarations and decisions on health issues adopted by the Organization of African Unity, in particular the declaration and plan of action on the "Roll Back Malaria" initiative adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Abuja on 24 and 25 April 2000, [4] as well as decision AHG/Dec.155 (XXXVI) concerning the implementation of that declaration and plan of action, adopted by the Assembly of

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[1] See resolution 55/284.

[2] See World Health Organization, *Sixtieth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 14–23 May 2007, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHASS1/2006-WHA60/2007/REC/1).

[3] See World Health Organization, *Sixty-first World Health Assembly, Geneva, 19–24 May 2008, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA61/2008/REC/1).

[4] See A/55/240/Add.1, annex.

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Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000,[5]

Also taking note of the Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its second ordinary session, held in Maputo from 10 to 12 July 2003,[6] and the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa, issued by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the special summit of the African Union on HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja, from 2 to 4 May 2006,

Recognizing the linkages in efforts being made to reach the targets set at the Abuja Summit in 2000 as necessary and important for the attainment of the "Roll Back Malaria" goal and the targets of the Millennium Development Goals by 2010 and 2015, respectively, and welcoming in this regard the commitment of Member States to respond to the specific needs of Africa,

Also recognizing that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

Acknowledging the progress made in parts of Africa in reversing the malaria epidemic through political engagement and sustainable national malaria control programmes, and recognizing the challenges of making the most effective use of available resources as well as rapid and accurate diagnoses,

Expressing concern about the continued morbidity, mortality and debility attributed to malaria, and recalling that more efforts are needed if the malaria targets for 2010 and the malaria and Millennium Development Goal targets for 2015 are to be reached on time,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening health systems to effectively support malaria control and elimination,

Commending the efforts of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and other partners to fight malaria over the years,

Taking note with appreciation of the Roll Back Malaria Global Strategic Plan 2005–2015 and the Global Malaria Action Plan developed by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the report prepared by the World Health Organization,[7] and calls for support for the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to continue to observe World Malaria Day and to collaborate in the observance of the final year of the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in

[5] See A/55/286, annex II.

[6] A/58/626, annex I, Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (II).

[7] See A/64/302.

Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, in order to raise public awareness of and knowledge about the prevention, control and treatment of malaria as well as the importance of meeting the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Malaria to continue raising the issue in collaboration with other United Nations organizations already working on those issues on the international political and development agendas and to work with national and global leaders to help to secure the political will, the partnerships and the funds to drastically reduce malaria deaths by 2010 through increased access to protection and treatment, especially in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* the launch on 23 September 2009 in New York of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance to provide political leadership at the highest level in the fight against malaria in Africa;

5. *Also welcomes* the United Against Malaria campaign which aims at uniting football stars and teams, governmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and corporations in the fight against malaria ahead of the 2010 International Federation of Association Football World Cup event, to be held in South Africa;

6. *Further welcomes* the increased funding for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive and control tools from the international community, through funding from multilateral and bilateral sources and from the private sector, as well as by making predictable financing available through appropriate and effective aid modalities and in-country health financing mechanisms aligned with national priorities, which are key to strengthening health systems and promoting universal and equitable access to high-quality malaria prevention and treatment services;

7. *Urges* the international community, together with United Nations agencies and private organizations and foundations, to support the implementation of the Global Malaria Action Plan, including through support for programmes and activities at the country level in order to achieve internationally agreed targets on malaria;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the secretariat of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and partner organizations, including the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund, as vital complementary sources of support for the efforts of malaria-endemic countries to combat the disease;

9. *Appeals* to the international community to work in a spirit of cooperation towards effective, increased, harmonized and sustained bilateral and multilateral assistance to combat malaria, including support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in order to assist States, in particular malaria-endemic countries, to implement sound national plans, in particular health plans and sanitation plans, including malaria control strategies and integrated management of childhood illnesses, in a sustained and equitable way that, inter alia, contributes to health system development;

10. *Appeals* to the malaria partners to resolve the financial and delivery bottlenecks that are responsible for stock-outs of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, artemisinin-based combination therapies and rapid diagnostic tests at the national level, whenever they occur, including through the strengthening of malaria programme management at the country level;

11. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of additional and predictable resources for development by voluntary innovative financing initiatives

taken by groups of Member States, and in this regard notes the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunization, the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the advance market commitment initiatives and the work of the High-level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems;

12. *Urges* malaria-endemic countries to work towards financial sustainability, to increase, to the extent possible, domestic resource allocation to malaria control and to create favourable conditions for working with the private sector in order to improve access to good-quality malaria services;

13. *Urges* Member States to assess and respond to the needs for integrated human resources at all levels of the health system, in order to achieve the targets of the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa[4] and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to take actions, as appropriate, to effectively govern the recruitment, training and retention of skilled health personnel, and to give particular focus to the availability of skilled personnel at all levels to meet technical and operational needs as increased funding for malaria control programmes becomes available;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, inter alia, by helping to meet the financial needs of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and through country-led initiatives with adequate international support, to intensify access to affordable, safe and effective antimalarial combination treatments, intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancies, adequate diagnostic facilities, long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, including, where appropriate, through the free distribution of such nets and, where appropriate, to insecticides for indoor residual spraying for malaria control, taking into account relevant international rules, including the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants[5] standards and guidelines;

15. *Requests* relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to assist efforts of national Governments to provide universal access to malaria control interventions especially to address at-risk young children and pregnant women in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, as rapidly as possible, with due regard to ensuring proper use of those interventions, including long-lasting insecticide nets, and sustainability through full community participation and implementation through the health system;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular malaria-endemic countries, with the support of the international community, to establish and/or strengthen national policies and operational plans, with a view to scaling up efforts to achieve internationally agreed malaria targets for 2010 and 2015, in accordance with the technical recommendations of the World Health Organization;

17. *Encourages* all African countries that have not yet done so to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Summit in 2000 to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for nets and other products needed for malaria control,[4] both to reduce the price of the products to consumers and to stimulate free trade in those products;

18. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies and their partners to continue to provide the technical support necessary to build and enhance the capacity of

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

Member States to implement the Global Malaria Action Plan and meet the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

19. *Expresses its concern* about the increase in resistant strains of malaria in several regions of the world, and calls upon Member States, with support from the World Health Organization and other partners, to strengthen surveillance systems for drug and insecticide resistance and upon the World Health Organization to coordinate a global network for the monitoring of drug and insecticide resistance and to ensure that drug and insecticide testing is fully operational in order to enhance the use of current insecticide- and artemisinin-based combination therapies;

20. *Urges* all Member States experiencing resistance to conventional monotherapies to replace them with combination therapies, as recommended by the World Health Organization, and to develop the necessary financial, legislative and regulatory mechanisms in order to introduce artemisinin combination therapies at affordable prices and to prohibit the marketing of oral artemisinin monotherapies, in a timely manner;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of the development of safe and cost-effective vaccines and new medicines to prevent and treat malaria and the need for further and accelerated research, including into safe, effective and high-quality traditional therapies, using rigorous standards, including by providing support to the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases[9] and through effective global partnerships, such as the various malaria vaccine initiatives and the Medicines for Malaria Venture, where necessary stimulated by new incentives to secure their development and through effective and timely support towards pre-qualification of new antimalarials and their combinations;

22. *Calls upon* the international community, including through existing partnerships, to increase investment in and efforts towards the research and development of new, safe and affordable malaria-related medicines, products and technologies, such as vaccines, rapid diagnostic tests, insecticides and delivery modes, to prevent and treat malaria, especially for at-risk children and pregnant women, in order to enhance effectiveness and delay the onset of resistance;

23. *Calls upon* malaria-endemic countries to assure favourable conditions for research institutions, including allocation of adequate resources and development of national policies and legal frameworks, where appropriate, with a view to, inter alia, informing policy formulation and strategic interventions on malaria;

24. *Reaffirms* the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement),[10] the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health,[11] the decision of the World Trade Organization's General Council of 30 August 2003[12] and amendments to article 31 of the Agreement,[13] which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all, including the production,

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[9] A joint programme of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

[10] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[11] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(01)/DEC/2. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[12] See World Trade Organization, document WT/L/540 and Corr.1. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[13] See World Trade Organization, document WT/L/641. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

under compulsory licensing, of generic drugs in the prevention and treatment of malaria, and resolves to assist developing countries in this regard;

25. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways to expand access to and the affordability of key products, such as vector control measures, including indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and artemisinin-based combination therapy for populations at risk of exposure to resistant strains of falciparum malaria in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, including through additional funds and innovative mechanisms, inter alia, for the financing and scaling up of artemisinin production and procurement, as appropriate, to meet the increased need;

26. *Welcomes* the increased level of public-private partnerships for malaria control and prevention, including the financial and in-kind contributions of private sector partners and companies operating in Africa, as well as the increased engagement of non-governmental service providers;

27. *Encourages* the producers of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to accelerate technology transfer to developing countries, and invites the World Bank and regional development funds to consider supporting malaria-endemic countries in establishing factories to scale up production of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets;

28. *Calls upon* the international community and malaria-endemic countries, in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations of the World Health Organization and the requirements of the Stockholm Convention, to increase capacity for the safe, effective and judicious use of indoor residual spraying and other forms of vector control and for quality control measures to ensure conformity with international rules, standards and guidelines;

29. *Urges* the international community to become fully knowledgeable about World Health Organization technical policies and strategies and the provisions in the Stockholm Convention related to the use of DDT, including for indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and case management, intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women and monitoring of in vivo resistance studies to artemisinin-based combination therapy treatment, so that projects support those policies, strategies and provisions;

30. *Requests* the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and donor agencies to provide support to those countries which choose to use DDT for indoor residual spraying so as to ensure that it is implemented in accordance with international rules, standards and guidelines, and to provide all possible support to malaria-endemic countries to manage the intervention effectively and prevent the contamination, in particular, of agricultural products with DDT and other insecticides used for indoor residual spraying;

31. *Encourages* the World Health Organization and its member States, with the support of the parties to the Stockholm Convention, to continue to explore possible alternatives to DDT as a vector control agent;

32. *Calls upon* malaria-endemic countries to encourage regional and intersectoral collaboration, both public and private, at all levels, especially in education, health, agriculture, economic development and the environment, to advance malaria control objectives;

33. *Calls upon* the international community to support the strengthening of health systems and national pharmaceutical policies, to monitor and fight against the trade in counterfeit antimalarial medicines and prevent their distribution and use, and to support coordinated efforts, inter alia, by providing technical assistance to

improve surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems and their alignment with national plans and systems so as to better track and report changes in coverage, the need for scaling up recommended interventions and the subsequent reductions in the burden of malaria;

34. *Urges* Member States, the international community and all relevant actors, including the private sector, to promote the coordinated implementation and enhance the quality of malaria-related activities, including via the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, in accordance with national policies and operational plans that are consistent with the technical recommendations of the World Health Organization and recent efforts and initiatives, including, where appropriate, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, adopted during the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra from 2 to 4 September 2008;[14]

35. *Notes* that the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly will provide an opportunity to review progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on progress towards achieving the internationally agreed targets for 2010 and an evaluation of the implementation of the first Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, including recommendations for further actions.

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009

[14] A/63/539, annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 February 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 49

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.5 and Add.1)*]

64/80. International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recalling also its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007 and 63/113 of 5 December 2008,

Reaffirming the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, recognizing that they serve, inter alia, as the basis for the observance of the Decade, and convinced that the effective and successful observance of the Decade throughout the world will promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.

[2] Resolution 53/243 B.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

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Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/66 of 26 April 2000, entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[4]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,[5] including paragraph 28 thereof, which indicates that each of the ten years of the Decade will be marked with a different priority theme related to the Programme of Action,

Noting the relevance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the special session of the General Assembly on children, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, as well as the need to implement, as appropriate, the relevant decisions agreed upon therein,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Noting that its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict could contribute to the further promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking into account the "Manifesto 2000" initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has so far received over seventy-five million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of resolution 63/113,[6]

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly,[7]

Welcoming the designation of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence,[8]

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as the International Mother Language Day, which aims at promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity, and

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[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] A/56/349.

[6] See A/64/312.

[7] See resolution 60/1.

[8] See resolution 61/271.

multilingualism, in order to foster a culture of peace, harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Appreciating the ongoing efforts of the Alliance of Civilizations and the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace in promoting a culture of peace,

Welcoming the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000;

2. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular during the Decade, at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

3. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for recognizing the promotion of a culture of peace as the expression of its fundamental mandate, and encourages it, as the lead agency for the Decade, to strengthen further the activities it has undertaken for promoting a culture of peace, including the dissemination of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace and related materials in various languages across the world;

4. *Commends* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the University for Peace, for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

5. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote a culture of peace and non-violence for children in its activities;

6. *Encourages* the appropriate authorities to provide education, in children's schools, that includes lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace;

7. *Commends* civil society, including non-governmental organizations and young people, for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace, and takes note of the progress achieved by more than seven hundred organizations in more than one hundred countries;

8. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to further strengthen its efforts in furtherance of the objectives of the Decade, inter alia, by adopting its own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of the mass media in education for a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people, including through the planned expansion of the Culture of Peace News Network as a global network of Internet sites in many languages;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue the communication and networking arrangements established during the International Year for providing an instant update of developments related to the observance of the Decade;

11. *Takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to include the theme "culture of peace" in the Creative Economy Week to be held from 19 to 24 October 2010 as part of the activities of the United Nations pavilion at the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai, China;

12. *Invites* Member States to observe 21 September each year as the International Day of Peace, as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

13. *Invites* Member States, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue providing information to the Secretary-General on the observance of the Decade and the activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

14. *Appreciates* the participation of Member States in the day of plenary meetings to review progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and the observance of the Decade at its midpoint;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore enhancing mechanisms for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a summary report on the activities carried out in the past ten years by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations entities, Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote and implement the Programme of Action;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 49

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.15/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

64/81. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolutions 56/6 of 9 November 2001, on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 of 19 December 2003, on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 of 11 November 2004, on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 61/17 of 20 November 2006, on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, 62/155 of 18 December 2007, on human rights and cultural diversity, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and 63/181 of 18 December 2008, on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recalling also its resolution 63/22 of 13 November 2008, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and the leading role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparations for the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, the promotion of a culture of peace and

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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tolerance and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Noting the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations,[2] which are all mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Noting also the commemoration of the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009,[3]

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance social stability, respect for diversity, and mutual respect in diverse communities, and create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Noting with appreciation the decision taken in resolution 47, adopted on 23 October 2009 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-fifth session, to approve the preliminary action plan for the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010,[4]

Affirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders in the interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at the various levels,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace,

1. *Affirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;[5]

3. *Notes* the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the global, regional and subregional levels;

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[2] Third Global Inter-Media Dialogue, Bali, Indonesia, 7 and 8 May 2008; World Conference on Dialogue, Madrid, 16–18 July 2008; Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, Astana, 1 and 2 July 2009, with the participation and technical assistance of the United Nations system; Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue, Seoul, 23–25 September 2009; Seventh Rhodes Forum, "Dialogue of Civilizations", Rhodes, Greece, 8–12 October 2009; Fifth Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue, Perth, Australia, 28–30 October 2009; Parliament of the World's Religions, Melbourne, Australia, from 3 to 9 December 2009; Third Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 27 to 29 May 2010; and Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, to be held in Manila in 2010.

[3] See resolution 61/17.

[4] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-fifth Session, Paris, 6–23 October 2009*, vol. 1 and corrigenda: *Resolutions*.

[5] A/64/325.

4. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

5. *Encourages* the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;[6]

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

7. *Takes note* of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, held on 25 September 2009 in New York;

8. *Supports* the proposal of the President of the General Assembly to hold, at its sixty-fourth session, an informal thematic debate on dialogue among civilizations;[7]

9. *Urges* Member States, in the context of the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, to promote the action plan for the celebration of the Year, and encourages Member States and all organizations and institutions, including civil society organizations, working to promote the rapprochement of cultures to join in the celebration of the Year in order to demonstrate their firm commitment to intercultural dialogue, including interreligious dialogue;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to organize, within existing resources, a special activity to launch the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, which could include the ringing of the peace bell;

12. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the

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[6] See article 19, paras. 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex).

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 41st meeting (A/64/PV.41), and corrigendum.

United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and, at its sixty-sixth session, in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to further solicit views of Member States on the possibility of proclaiming a United Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation for peace, building on the information contained in the reports of the Secretary-General at the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions and the relevant initiatives to be taken in the course of 2010.

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009